

Amendments to the Claims:

Please replace the heading before claim 1 with the following new heading 1:

~~Claims~~ What is claimed is:

Please replace claims 1 to 10 as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/IB2005/000776 with the following claims. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (new): A packing sleeve for a printing unit cylinder of an offset printing press comprising:

- an outer lateral surface having at least one region; and
- at least one region including an area having a plurality of incisions;
- the plurality of incisions increasing an elasticity of the packing sleeve in a peripheral direction.

Claim 12 (new): The packing sleeve as recited in claim 11 wherein the incisions run parallel to the figure axis of the packing sleeve.

Claim 13 (new): The packing sleeve as recited in claim 11 wherein the incisions in the area are arranged along lines, the incisions of adjacent lines lying offset with respect to one another.

Claim 14 (new): The packing sleeve as recited in claim 13 wherein a ratio of a length of the incisions to a spacing of adjacent lines is between 5.00 and 50.00.

Claim 15 (new): The packing sleeve as recited in claim 11 wherein the region extends over the entire outer lateral surface.

Claim 16 (new): The packing sleeve as recited in claim 11 wherein a width of the incisions is selected to reduce deformation during a printing mode of a printing plate received on the packing sleeve.

Claim 17 (new): The packing sleeve as recited in claim 11 wherein the outer lateral surface includes a slot for receiving edges of a plate-form printing plate or a printing blanket.

Claim 18 (new): The packing sleeve as recited in claim 17 wherein an area surrounding the slot has no incisions.

Claim 19 (new): The packing sleeve as recited in claim 11 wherein the packing sleeve is steel or aluminium.

Claim 20 (new): A method for enlarging the effective outer diameter of a printing unit cylinder in an offset printing press comprising the step of:

drawing a packing sleeve over a printing unit cylinder in an offset printing press, wherein the packing sleeve is recited in claim 11.

Claim 21 (new): An offset printing press comprising:

a printing unit cylinder having a packing sleeve as recited in claim 11.